



DICK TRACY



TERRY



APPLE MARY



SMITTY



SKIPPY

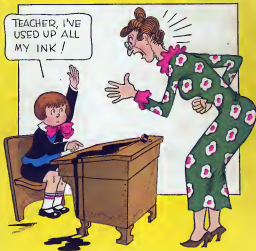


ORPHAN ANNIE

OCTOBER—NO. 9

10¢

POPULAR COMICS



APPLE MARY • RECK'S CARTOONS • BERTIE STORY • DICK TRACY • DIC'S CARTOONS
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SMITTY • SMOKEY • STAMP PAGE • STRAIN • STREAKY • SWEENEY • TERRY • THE NERDS
TINY TIM • TIPPIE • TOM MIX



INC

2nd BIG ISSUE of

10¢

BEST of the WEST

CHARLES STARRETT

DURANGO KID



THE ORIGINAL INDIAN HERO OF RADIO LAND

STRAIGHT ARROW



No. 2

MAGAZINE ENTERPRISES
4 STARS
IN ONE
BOOK
DOES IT AGAIN!

GHOST RIDER



FIM HOLT





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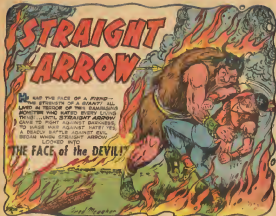
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BAD TOLD ME TO BE
STICKS AND BEANS—
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M
GONNA BE! I'LL GET
THOSE BLOODS—TILL
GET THEM SOMEHOW!



POST-BOB!—POST I
GOTTA FIND THE
DUMBASS KID! HE'LL
HELP ME, I BET...
SUS!



MANY HOURS,
MANY MILES,
MANY BUSTERS
LATER...



GEE WHILERS—ALL
THAT FOOD! I'M SO
HUNGRY... I WONDER
HOW I COULD GET
SOME OF THAT FOOD...

ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO, BUTTONE—
IS JOIN MR. PARSONS, MA'AM,
AND ME—WE'RE BOTH SANTA
CLAUSES IN DISGUISE!



POOF
I'LL
FEEL
LOOSE
HALF-
STARVED
BROKE!

GO RIGHT
AHEAD, BOB—
FEEL YOUR
FACE!



WHAT'S YOUR STORY, BUTTONE?
HOW'D YOU GET HERE, ALL BY YOUR
LONESOME? WHAT'S YOUR COLOR?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? NOW COME
THAT!

I AMN'T TELLIN' NUTHIN'! I GOT LOTS
IMPORTANT THINGS I TELL—BUT
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I'M GONNA
TELL 'EM TO... AN THAT'S THE
DUMBASS KID! COULD YOU
TELL ME WHERE HE IS, PLEASE?



NO, SON, I DECIDED
I CAN'T TELL YOU
THAT!



THEN IT LOOKS LIKE I
GOTTA FIND OUT FOR MYSELF
— THANKS FOR THE MEAL,
BUSTER—AN SO LONG!





MEANWHILE, BLAKE AND THE MEN REACH THEIR HORSEOUT...

AND NOW OUR HORSEOUT IS A QUARTER ENOUGH PLACES TO DO THE JOB!

LET ME GO! LET ME GO! YOU— YOU BULLY!

BLAT IT WAS— CAN'T YOU HOLD THAT NO STUP FOR A MINUTE SO I CAN SHOOT?

HELP! HELP!

TURNING I AMT BLAKE I LIKE THE JOB AT ALL—HOLD UP! KID!



SUDDENLY!

WHAT THE—!

CLANG!





TIM HOLT

IT CAME CRASHING UP THE RIVER, ITS PADDLEWHEELS SLOSHING WATER, CARRYING A CARGO OF DOOMED HUMANS! FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN ABOARD THE **SEVENMILE HARBOR** MARKED FOR DEATH BY THE MOST VIOLENT SIBBOS IN THE SOUTHWEST—THE GRIM MAN-KILLERS WHO RODE WITH **THE DEADLY HORSE**!

AND WHEN **SPIDERMAN** ATTEMPTED A RESCUE, HE FOUND HIMSELF EYE TO EYE WITH DEATH'S GRIM SMILE AS HE FACED THE DEADLY—

'PESIL on the PADDLEWHEELER!'

A GUNSHOT BLASTS THE MID-MORNING BUSH IN A SILVER CITY BANK...

BACK AGAINST THE WALL! KEEP YOUR HANDS HIGH! THIS IS A STICKUP!

CHITTO—A GUNSHOT FROM BEHIND THE BANK! SOME ONE!







MINUTES LATER



THE PASSENGERS ARE UNDED UP AND SYSTEMATICALLY BOBBED...



THE BOILER ROOM IS HWADED AND THE CREW IS FORCED TO WORK UNDER THE MENACING HIZZLE OF A SHOTGUN.



COMED AND TERRORIZED PEOPLE ARE HERDED INTO THEIR BOOMS...

YOU STAY IN HERE FROM NOW ON, TRY ANYTHING—AND YOU GET WHIPPED WITH THE CAPTAIN'S CAT-O'-NINE TAILS!



UNDER A RAIL OF FEAR AND PAIN, THE PROBLEMSHOLER CHURNS TO-THRO BULLY!



IN BULLET SOME DAYS LATER, AS THE STEAMBOAT PULLS TO A HALT BEFORE THE HOME STATION...



BUT WHEN BETTY HAMMOND APPEARS ON THE DECK OF THE PROBLEMLOSER...



JUN!





SUDDENLY A PEEL OF LAUGHTER RINGS
ACROSS THE HUMDRUM TOWN SQUARE...



WITHIN AN HOUR, THE BIG PROBLEMS
ARE ONCE AGAIN CHASING THE EAST
WIND, AND THE SIGHTING IS OUT
OF SIGHT, SOUND FOR BORDER CITY.



IN BULLET, AS TUN IS SADDLING UP FOR THE RIDE TO HIS THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY...



SHAKE A LEG, ONTO, WE'RE LATE NOW!

JUMP, THAT CAMELBACK! SHE'S A BOMBHELL! SHE'S SO LOVELY! SHE LOVES ME SO MUCH!



EVEN HER HAIRPIN TANGLED WITH THERE ROSE I TAKE FROM HER NAME ITS SMALL WONDERFULLY!

HAIRPIN! THAT'S IT! A HAIRPIN—AND THAT LAUGH! I FOUND THE HAIRPIN WHERE THE BLACK RIDER DROPPED IT AS HE LAUGHED WHEN THE CHANDLER DROPPED ON ME!



THE BLACK RIDER IS A WOMAN!—THE SAME WOMAN THAT WAGS WITH THAT DADDY-DEAR CAPTAIN ON THE STREET! COME TO THINK OF IT—WAGS WAS BETTY HAMMOND AT THE TIME? GOT TO SEE HER—PRONTO!



BUT IN BETTY HAMMOND'S HOTEL ROOM...

SHE WENT ABOARD THE GUNBOAT, BUT SHE DIDN'T COME BACK! SHE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT HER MARRIAGE THROUSSEAU BEHIND! SHE EXPECTED TO MARRY THE CAPTAIN!



BUT IF THE BLACK RIDER IS KEEPING HER AS A HOSTAGE FOR THE CAPTAIN'S GOOD CONDUCT, IT ALL ADDS UP! GOT TO WARN THE CAVALRY AT THE PORT BY TELEGRAPH! THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THE BOAT...



ACROSS THE SAGE PLATS, AND THE PRAIRIES, NEARBY THE MOUNTAIN, MOMENTS LATER, A STEADY GALLOPE FROM PORT DANGER...

AT THE GALLOP AND!

AT THE END OF THE SWEETWATER NEAR THE SAND DUNES





GHOST RIDER

THE

OUT OF THE DARK
WHEN IT COMES,
SPOUTING FIRE,
ROARING ITS RAGE,
MEN'S BLOOD RUNS
COLD AT SIGHT AND
SCUD OF THE
AWESOME SOMETHING
THAT RUNS THE BLUFFS
OF NIGHT BLUFF!
ONLY THE GHOST
RIDER HAS THE
COURAGE TO FACE ITS
FEARFUL MENACE
AND DRIVE THE
TERROR OF DEATH
AT THE CLAWS OF

THE HORROR
IN THE
BLUFFS!



THE HORROR HAUNTS
THE BLUFF PLATS BELOW
THE BLUFF REACHLANDS.

YIIIIII!



NO MAN DARED ITS HORROR...

THE HORROR...
ALMOST GOT US...

YOU DANGLED
FOOL! DON'T
YOU KNOW
BETTER 'N TO
RIDE THE BLUFF
TRAIL AT
NIGHT!



BUT ONE MAN RIDES THE BLUFF TAIL, TWO KID OUT, CREEPING AND SPEEDING HIS HORSE, FOR HE FEARS WHAT IS BEHIND HIM MORE THAN HE FEARS WHAT LIES AHEAD...



SHOOT BACK...
CLOSE BEHIND ME!

HE CAUGHT ME... ROBBING! TWENTY MILE STAGE TONIGHT... UNSTABLED AFTER ME... MY HORSE DYING OUT...
YOWWWW!



ROB THOMAS—TWO-GUN KILLER AND WANTED CRIMINAL—SCREAMS IN FRONT!

SANCTUARY! JOE PARKY OVER IN SAN ANTONIO TOLD ME—
SANCTUARY!



THAT IS THE PRESSURE... FOLLOW ME!

WHAT A LUCKY BREAK! IF ANYTHING CAN SAVE ME FROM THE SHOOT RIDER—THE MONSTER CAN!



WHILE LATER, AS THE SHOOT RIDER THUNDERS THROUGH THE WIDE SADDLING NEEDLE BLUFFS, THE MONSTER BEGINS TO MEET HIM...



SPECTER—EASE UP! DON'T GO LOOOO, BOY!

SCORCHED AT THE FIRE-BREATHING SOMETHING IN THE MOUTH, SPECTER BLURS THE BIT IN HIS TEETH AND RUNS—!

CAN'T SAY I BLAME YOU NOONE WAYS, SHE HORSE—THAT RISE FROM THAT THERE MOUTH WAS HOT! IT SCORCHED MY SLEEVE!





IF THAT MONSTER IS A MONSTER, MAYBE HE'LL HAVE LEFT SOME TRACKS...



NOT A TRACK! IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT FLOATED ABOVE THE GROUND! EVEN IF THIS IS ROCKY SHALE, A HOOF OR PAWPRINT OUGHT TO SHOW SOMEWHERE!



OIL DRIPPING! HUH—NOW MAYBE THAT'S A BRONC OF ANOTHER COLOR!



THE MONSTER WASN'T AN ANIMAL OF SOME SORT—IT WAS A MECHANICAL THING—AND BY THE SHAPE OF THOSE OIL DRIPS, I CAN TELL WHICH WAY IT WENT!



THE TRAIL ENDS AT THE BASE OF THESE BLUFFS! HUH—THAT MECHANISM DIDN'T DISAPPEAR BY ITSELF! AND IT DIDN'T GO BEYOND THIS POINT, SOMEHOW PART OF THIS CLIFF OPENS UP—!

AS DUSK FALLS, REX FURY DISAPPEARS, AND IN HIS PLACE, THE GHOST RIDER, RICHES UPWARD TOWARD A HARBING VY—



A CHAIN FULL, CLEVERLY DISGUISED BY VINE GARD! NOW TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS—!



WHAT THE—?





FACE DOWN IN THE DEERY TURF.
THE SHORT-BOY'S LIFE NOTIONLESS,
THEREABOUT BY FLAMES OF DEATH.



GOT TO GET OUT—OR BE
BURNED—ALONE! THOSE
FLAMES—LIKE A
SOLID WALL—!



ONLY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE IT!
BY GETTING INSIDE THIS THING
AND RISING IT THROUGH
THE FLAMES!



THOSE CHILDOOS HAVE BEEN USING THIS
PLACE AS A HIDEOUT— AND THIS MONSTER
TO SCARE FOLK AWAY SO THEY
WOULDN'T BE FOUND!



THAT'S ALL OVER NOW— BUT THE MAN I
CAME AFTER— ROB THOMAS— WILL GET
AWAY OVER THE BORDER UNLESS I STOP
'EM! SEEMS I HEARD ONE OF 'EM SAY
THEY'D STOP AT TWENTY-MILE
TODAY...



IN TWENTY-MILE,
SOME HOURS
LATER...



THE M-M-MONSTER!
WE'VE G-COME TO BROWN!
RUN FOR
YOUR LIVES!





WRAPPED IN HIS BLACK CLOAK, THE GHOST RIDER LIES ONLY HIS HANDS TO OVERCOME THE GUNMEN. AFTER HE HAS SHOT OUT THE LAMPS...



Here it is fellas! send for it **NOW!**

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